REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is currently amended. Claim 26 is new. An RCE application is concurrently submitted herewith. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and remarks below is requested.

I. The rejection of claims 1-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 pursuant to 35 USC 112

The Examiner has rejected the claims as indefinite for being defined in terms of properties alone. Claim 1, as amended, does not define the compositions in terms of properties alone. For example, claim 1, as amended requires, *inter alia*, a granule including a core and a coating wherein the core has an active compound and the coating includes a synthetic polymer wax composition. Reconsideration is urged.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 1 by stating that it is indefinite as to what exactly a) b) and c) are. Claim 1, as amended, includes a coating having a wide molecular weight distribution. Accordingly, a), b), and c) characterize a wide molecular weight distribution. See, e.g., the term "a wide molecular weight distribution" on page 3 of the instant specification for additional clarification. For additional clarity, Claim 1 is currently amended to show that the wax is an admixture. The admixture is characterized in that it has a wide molecular weight distribution as claimed. Applicants' submit that claim 1 is clear. Reconsideration is urged.

II. The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

The Applicants' disclosure relates to a granule including a core and a coating wherein the core includes an active compound and the coating includes a synthetic polymer wax composition with a broad molecular weight distribution.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Markussen *et al* (WO 89/08694) (hereinafter referred to simply as "Markussen").

Markussen refers to granulate detergent enzymes including a core of an enzyme containing material with a coating containing a mono- and diglyceride of a fatty acid, with a

content of monoglyceride in relation to the total amount of mono and diglyceride of at least 30% by weight and preferably with a melting point above 35 deg. C. However, Markussen does not disclose the synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution recited in the claim 1. Mroeover, Markussen does not have the admixture of PEG as required by claim 1. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the compositions of Markussen to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating having the claimed PEG admixure. As neither all the elements are shown in Markussen and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Markussen to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating, Markussen is deficient and fails to anticipate or make obvious amended claim 1. Reconsideration is urged.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Andela et al (WO 96/16151) (hereinafter referred to simply as "Andela").

Andela refers to coated enzyme granule and a method of preparing coated enzyme granules. However, Andela does not disclose the synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution with the claimed PEG admixture. In particular, a synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution and three PEG constituents is not shown. As neither all the elements are shown in Andela and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Andela to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating including an admixture of PEG, Andela is deficient and fails to anticipate or make obvious amended claim 1. Reconsideration is urged.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Nicholson et al (US 5,480,577) (hereinafter simply referred to as "Nicholson").

Nicholson Nicholson is deficient and fails to describe the claimed composition having a synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution as well as the PEG admixture. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the compositions of Nicholson to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating using a PEG admixture. As neither all the elements

are shown in Nicholson and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Nicholson to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating, Nicholson is deficient and fails to make claim 1 as amended herein obvious. Reconsideration is urged.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Michael W Krenicky Reg. # 45411/
Michael Krenicky Reg. No. 45,411
Novozymes North America, Inc.
500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600
New York, NY 10110
(212) 840-0097